

L'Envoi -- Farewell to an Artist

After three years as chairman of the Art Department and six years as administrator of the College, Dean Mathews was granted a half-year leave of absence from August, 1965 through January, 1966. The provision of this interval for study and creative work was particularly timely, for he had just completed the problem-filled "shakedown" period of guiding the College into full operational status during its first year in the new Fine Arts Center. Clawson Y. Cannon Jr., assistant professor of music, served as acting dean in his absence.

Dean Mathews resumed his position for the remainder of the 1965-66 academic year and the ensuing summer and fall terms, a period filled with continuing problems of additional facilities and staff. During a Christmas vacation visit at the home of his daughter in Okla., he was stricken with a severe heart attack and remained there under treatment for the next three months. Because of the nature of his illness, he asked upon his return to be released at an early date from his administrative position. Upon the appointment of his successor at the end of the summer he was given the title of Dean Emeritus.

As professor of art he then returned to the teaching of his favorite classes--Art History and Appreciation and Ancient and Primitive Art. He occupied an office adjacent to the new "secured" gallery which he had worked energetically to add to the Fine Arts Center. He continued teaching and painting until the summer of 1972, when he was hospitalized for the treatment of cancer. He died in Provo on Oct. 30, 1972 at the age of 67.

In his eight years at the helm Dean Mathews had guided the College through a difficult period when its departments were scattered in temporary housing, and had played a vital role in the planning and eventual completion of their new home together in the Harris Fine Arts Center. With a special talent for gaining the confidence and cooperation of his colleagues, he had helped to bring about a new unity of purpose and effort by the faculty, and had successfully integrated the new Communications Department.

The Dean encouraged his departments in creative undertakings which could reach a wide circle of student and public audiences. Even three years before the Fine Arts Center was a reality, the College sponsored a fine arts festival in the spring of 1961 on the theme, "Religion and the Fine Arts." It included four concerts, three symposiums, a drama, an opera, an art exhibit, and three articles published in B.Y.U. Studies, and foreshadowed the festival which became an annual event under the leadership of his successor. He made also a major contribution to the University in securing important additions to its notable collections of paintings and sculptures.

The Deanship of Lorin F. Wheelwright

In Dr. Lorin F. Wheelwright of Salt Lake City President Wilkinson found a multi-talented leader to assume the deanship of the College of Fine Arts and Communications. He was a musician and educator by training and profession, a graphic artist and publisher in business, and a skilled communicator by the spoken and written word. He brought to the position a fresh and imaginative approach, and through special organizational skills stimulated the faculty and student body of the College to new levels of achievement.

The following is a summary of his background:

Born in Ogden, Utah, Dec. 20, 1909

Married to Ila Spillsbury; parents of three daughters and one son.

Studied piano in Ogden, and as a young teen-ager got a job playing the Egyptian organ in the ~~Orpheum~~ Theater to accompany the silent movies.

Undergraduate studies at Weber College and University of Utah; B.S.

in music and psychology, 1930

M.A., educational psychology, 1931, University of Chicago

Ph.D., Columbia University, music education, 1938

Teacher in Utah schools, 3 years, 1931-34

Head of Music Dept., Oswego (N.Y.) State Teachers College, 1935-36

Supervisor of Music, Salt Lake City Schools, 1936-50 (13 years)

Positions of leadership in Salt Lake Civic Music Association, Utah

Symphony Board, Salt Lake Oratorio Society, Intermountain Radio

Council, California-Western Music Educators Conference, Utah

Congress of Parents and Teachers; and Salt Lake Council, Boy

Scouts of America

Member of Utah Legislative Council, Utah School Merit Study Commission,  
Chairman and vice-chairman of Utah Coordinating Council of Higher

Education, and Utah commissioner to Western Interstate Compact on  
Higher Education

President of Wheelwright Lithographing Co., Wheelwright Press, Inc.,

And Wheelwright Publications Inc.

President of Printing Industry of Utah

Production manager of the Arts Division, Utah Centennial Commission, 1946-7

Member of the General Board, Deseret Sunday School Union, 1956-

Organizational Developments

The Dean set up Planning Seminars of two or three days' duration before the beginning of each school year. These helped to define the duties of chairmen, formulated unified objectives for the College, and aided the adoption of management-by-objective techniques. One of the specific outcomes was the setting up of basic policies for cooperation of the Music and Dramatic Arts Departments for the production of musicals.<sup>21</sup>

Special faculty workshops were held each semester to share plans and objectives with all of the teachers in the College, and to stimulate and give recognition to their creative achievements. The Dean himself provided a challenging example in personal development, through continuing musical study and by a steady output of speeches, written articles, books, illustrations, and musical compositions.

Another outcome of the seminars and workshops was an on-going review of department curricula with a view to increasing efficiency and raising the quality of instruction and of the graduates from each department of the College.

In order to relieve the department chairmen of burdens in academic accounting of students' credits for graduation, the Dean assigned his secretary, Mrs. Yvonne Miller, to head a College Advisement Center. With the assistance of Dr. William R. Siddoway, dean of Admissions and Records, this innovation became a model for similar centers in each of the other colleges of the University.

As a unique aspect of the new center in Fine Arts and Communications, the Dean provided each department with a cassette tape recorder and assembled for the benefit of new students an audio-tape library of capsule descriptions of all basic courses in the College.

---

<sup>21</sup> Author's interview with Lorin F. Wheelwright, Dec. 17, 1973.

The Mormon Festival and Special Events

In the first semester of his deanship Dr. Wheelwright was asked by President Wilkinson to assist in the organization of a patriotic assembly to be presented in the Fieldhouse. With the title, "Heritage of Freedom," the script was written by the dean to trace in dramatic episodes the highlights of mankind's epic struggles from the days of Moses and Pharoah to the American Revolution. Dramatization, staging, and lighting was developed by the Dramatic Arts Department, and stirring music was provided by the Music Department's big choruses and symphonic band. The climax was a memorable address by Paul Harvey, national radio commentator.

Also in the same year the Dean was approached by Prof. Dale Fletcher and a group of students from the Art Department who proposed the showing of a special exhibit of Mormon art. After the group had tried out the idea with some showings in off-campus locations, it was decided to combine an art display with other events embracing music, drama, literature, and ballet--all coordinated and sponsored by the College as a Mormon Festival of Arts. The first annual festival was held in the spring of 1969 and featured an art exhibit and the American premier performance of Pilgrim's Progress by Ralph Vaughn Williams. In 1970 and 1971 other features were added, including original compositions, visiting artists, and the participation of other colleges as well. After the third Festival, highlights were distilled and published along with a sound recording in a 96-page volume, Mormon Arts Vol. I, with a score of descriptive essays and numerous photographs, drawings, and paintings reproduced in full color ~~xxxxxxx~~. Aggregate attendance for events of the 1971 Festival was recorded as 57,745.

### Service to the Church

In his summer ~~workshop~~ seminars with department chairmen and autumn workshops with his faculty, Dr. Wheelwright sought to re-orient the focus of the College toward service to the entire Church. This was implemented in a number of significant ways. The university choruses sang at the Salt Lake Tabernacle in connection with general conferences of the Church, as had been done earlier, but in addition the woodwind symphony under Dr. Ralph Laycock played special arrangements of Mormon hymns for breakfast sessions held by the Sunday School general board.

When a Christmas season lighting feature was begun at Temple Square in Salt Lake City, the Dean took the B.Y.U. A Capella Choir and Philharmonic Orchestra for an hour's program in the Tabernacle to marking the opening ceremonies. ~~xxxx~~ Some 4,500 singers from high schools in Utah joined with them in a program of carols which was broadcast throughout the state. Dr. Lael J. Woodbury, chairman of the Department of Speech and Dramatic Arts, read a script for the occasion that the Dean had written. The initial program was so successful that the pattern was continued in subsequent years.

Another significant project developed to serve the Church auxiliary organizations was the recording of music for the series of cultural development lessons. Instead of dubbing selections from standard works of recording companies, new records were prepared especially for L.D.S. families by using the musical and technical resources of the College, and including contributions from other parts of the world. To get these for subsequent years' recordings, the Dean made trips to the Near East and the Pacific areas. By 1971 as many as 10,000 of the record kits were being used annually by <sup>wards</sup> ~~families~~ of the Church and individual families.

Another service project which the Dean began in 1970 was the organization of what was called a "Family Sing," in which he organized a choir of 300 voices made up of the members of 80 families in Sharon Stake in Orem, Utah. This chorus was taken to the Tabernacle to sing in the Sunday School session of the General conference, with the plan later repeated in the Mormon Festival of Arts on the campus.

Many of the faculty members of the College continued in service on the general boards and general committees of the Church, but a major development was the addition of seven members of the Music Department Faculty to the General Church Music Committee. Robert Cundick, composer and organ instructor who was called to become a Tabernacle Organist, became the executive director, with a B.Y.U. graduate, Michael Moody, as secretary. Members on the committee from the B.Y.U. faculty were A. Harold Goodman, John R. Halliday, James A. Mason, Merrill Bradshaw, Rendol L. Gibbons, and John T. Longhurst.

#### College Enrollments and Graduates

In the year preceding Dr. Wheelwright's appointment, the College had a cumulative enrollment of 1,796 undergraduate majors. ~~In~~ Four years later, 1970-71, this total had risen to 2,412, a gain of 34 per cent. The total for the University rose 27 per cent in the same years.<sup>23</sup>

The number of bachelor's degrees awarded in the college increased from 289 to 489 in the same period, a gain of 41 percent. This was the same rate of gain for the University as a whole. Master's degrees awarded rose from 40 to 82 in the period, a gain of 105 per cent, while the gain in the University was 38 per cent. Nine doctoral degrees were granted in the College during the four years in relatively new programs.

<sup>23</sup>B.Y.U. Enrollment Resume, 1970-71.

Clawson Y. Cannon Jr., who earlier had served as acting dean during single terms in 1965 and 1967, served as assistant dean in first two Dr. Wheelwright's ~~xxxxxx~~ years, and in 1969 left the campus to teach in the East. Dr. Lael J. Woodbury, chairman of the Department of Speech and Dramatic Arts, was chosen by the Dean to serve as his assistant on a half-time basis in 1969-70, and full-time in 1970-71. He was succeeded as department chairman by Dr. Parley W. Newman.

In the Art Department Prof. Floyd E. Breinholt was appointed chairman in 1968 to succeed Glen H. Turner, and in the summer of 1971 Prof. Douglas Stout was designated to follow in the chairmanship.

Prof. J. Morris Richards had been chairman of the Communications Department since 1966, and was released at the end of 1970-71 to be followed by Dr. Edwin O. Haroldsen. Prof. Richards had been working closely with Dean Wheelwright on the Student Publications Committee, and they had developed a more professional management and advisement procedure for the campus daily newspaper, yearbook, and directory.

Dr. A. Harold Goodman continued in the chairmanship of the Music Department during this period.

#### A Report of One Year's Activities

The scope of the activities, development, and goals of the College during 1970-71 is reflected in a brief report to the Board of Trustees made by the Dean on May 1, 1971. A copy of it is appended.

489

Brief Report on  
The COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS  
To the Board of Trustees  
Brigham Young University  
May 1, 1971  
By Lorin F. Wheelwright, Dean

Purpose: To infuse high artistic achievement with spirituality so our students will bring lasting joy to themselves and to all whom they serve.

Courses: We teach 405 courses in the departments of Art, Communications, Music, and Speech and Dramatic Arts.

Enrollment: We now have 2,084 undergraduate majors and 227 graduate students -- a total of 2,311. The number of registrations in our courses is 15,501.

Performance: Our students perform what they learn. In brief summary, here are a few facts from the past year:

<u>EVENTS</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>
Art Shows - 37	135,000
Concerts and Recitals - 285	208,940
Dramatic Performances - 285	118,358
Advertising & Broadcast Presentations - 4	850
Number served by Speech & Hearing Unit	<u>6,133</u>
Total	469,281

Number of debate tournaments entered - 20  
with 7 first place and sweepstake awards

Mormon Festival  
of Arts:

To reach students and the Church as a whole, we have recently presented the third annual Mormon Festival of Arts. With 28 events we have reached many people and will yet reach thousands more through recordings and publications.

<u>EVENTS:</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>
13 Symposiums	1,591
3 Art Shows	25,010
5 Musical Concerts	5,838
5 Dramatic Productions	12,781
2 Assemblies	<u>15,525</u>
Total	57,745

After seeing our original production, "The Order is Love" the following statement was published by Dr. Keith Engar, Executive Director, Pioneer Memorial Theatre, University of Utah: (Deseret News, March 31, 1971)

"Congratulations are due the Brigham Young University's College of Fine Arts for its superb work in the Mormon Arts Festival. Dean Lorin Wheelwright and Associate Dean Lael J. Woodbury deserve the applause of all of us for planning and carrying through this stimulating event. The Festival, in giving impetus to such brilliant work as Carol Lynn Pearson's and Alexis Azevedo's musical, 'The Order is Love,' promises to be a prime means of developing the Mormon dramatic and musical literature we so long have hoped for. Brigham Young University is in a unique position to foster development of arts in the Church context, and all indications are that the Y College of Fine Arts is doing a first-rate job in this area."

Curriculum  
Development:

Each department is creatively developing better courses and sequences. Here are a few highlights of current activities:

Art: Tightening of admission standards, eliminating unnecessary courses.

Comm.: Refining still photography course sequence.

Music: Bringing together preparation for teaching of music and actual teaching.

Speech & D. A.: Analyzing and consolidating of courses in Drama.

Service  
Beyond the  
College:

Our faculty and administrators assist the Church and the total University program in such leadership roles as these:

Writing the lessons for the Relief Society Cultural Refinement course and making the recordings for use throughout the Church.

Making professional analyses of Church magazines at the request of their editors.

Serving on Auxiliary General Boards (9% of the full-time faculty)

Service  
Beyond the  
College:  
(cont'd. )

Serving as executive leaders in following University assignments:

Management of student publications:

Daily Universe

Banyan

Student Directory

Supervision of University Performance  
with 11 sub-committees

Planning and presentation of weekly  
Forum Assemblies

Supervision of traveling music and drama  
groups

Management of traveling art shows

Management of art acquisitions, restoration,  
and exhibition.

Future  
Developments:

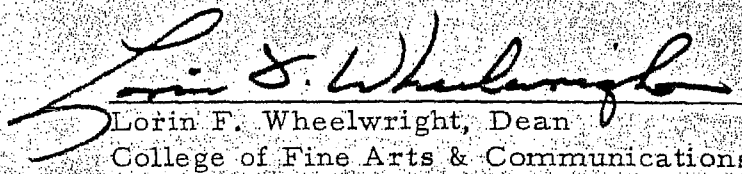
We see a great future ahead when the arts and communications will convey our Mormon values through our students and campus activities to the whole world. We see a growing skill in motion pictures, TV cassettes and similar media. We see a refinement of individualized learning so our superior faculty can reach adults beyond the campus in far greater numbers than now.

We see the arts serving the Church as bridges of common understanding to the varied cultures and peoples of the world.

Appreciation:

We thank the Trustees for their confidence and support of our programs. We pledge ourselves to give strength of mind and heart to the cause of building the Kingdom through dedicated talents, disciplined and eager to serve. That is our way of saying "Thank you."

(SEE ATTACHED CHARTS FOR GROWTH PATTERNS)

  
Lorin F. Wheelwright, Dean  
College of Fine Arts & Communications